F.M. radio on long distance trains

424. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have explored the possibility of introducing F.M. radio on various long distance trains, alongwith music, etc. already being relayed, in order to improve recreational standards for passengers;

(b) if so, by when such arrangement is likely to be put in place in all the long distance trains, subject to feasibility; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Railways have, however, conducted joint trails with All India Radio (AIR) for extention of Direct to Home (DTH) Radio Channels launched by AIR, for passenger, on one Rajdhani Express Train. Further decision on extention of the service on other Rajdhani and Shatabdi Express Trains will be taken after receipt of the report of the trials.

Creation of East Central Railway Zone

425. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to create a new East Central Railway Zone, with Headquarters at Hazipur, by carving out some divisions from the Eastern Railway Zone; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the criteria adopted in creating this new zone?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) and (b) In 1996, the Government had decided to create East Central Railway Zone, Hajipur. This Zone is now being made functional *w.e.f.* 1.10.2002. Its jurisdiction will include Samastipur, Sonpur Divisions of North Eastern Railway and Dhanbad, Mughalsarai and Danapur Divisions of Eastern Railway.

New Zones are set up keeping in view factors like size, workload, accessibility, traffic pattern, operating and administrative requirements